IN-TRANSIT: TRAIN HELD UP BY CUSTOMS, PG8

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VANCOUVER • MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009
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Celebrity

Jolie worried about karma?

pg 18

Workology

Doing the dirty work

pg 12

Web viewers await birth of third eaglet

MINÉ SALKIN
for Metro Vancouver

SIDNEY A third Vancouver Island eaglet is expected to hatch sometime today live on webcam.

More than 250,000 people have viewed the live streaming video over the last two weeks when two other eaglets were born, according to the Hancock Wildlife Foundation, which set up the live cams.

Back in February when still cameras were installed, the site averaged 1,000 hits a day. That number has recently spiked.

"We're expecting to hit one million within the month," said project co-ordinator Karen Bills.

Thousands of online viewers, or "eagle-holics," watched the first Sidney eaglet hatch early Wednesday morning.

Since then, Bills has noted that viewers from as far as New Zealand, Germany and South Africa have been streaming the videos.

Despite the good news in Sidney, a second nest in Delta is not looking so promising.

"We have the momma eagle there, but her eggs are 11 days overdue," Bills said. "We aren't expecting those to hatch."

Going Green pg 11

Simplicity key to balance?

Entertainment pg 15

Corner Gas closes shop

Please recycle

Playing the Blues

Faceoff

LUONGO:DAVE SANDFORD; MASON: RONALD MARTINEZ; STANLEY CUP: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES

Roberto Luongo, left, will be staring down the ice at St. Louis goalie Chris Mason when the road to the Stanley Cup begins this week. The Blues won their final game of the regular season yesterday to claim sixth place in the Western Conference and a trip to Vancouver to face the Canucks in round one of the 2009 NHL playoffs. Coverage, pgs 3 and 10.

Homeless man's death 'heinous crime': Police

Investigators seek public's help in city's 13th homicide of year

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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The murder of a one-legged homeless man found dead near his wheelchair in an East Vancouver playground is disturbing and heinous, police said yesterday.

The body of Michael Ciro Nestoruk, 41, was discovered at Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School early Thursday morning by parents who were dropping off their children.

Revealing details of the crime for the first time yesterday, Const. Lindsay Houghton said Nestoruk's wheelchair was found a short distance away from his body, as were a pair of pants and a shoe.

Houghton wouldn't say how the man was killed, only to say that he was murdered — making him Vancouver's 13th homicide victim this year.

"Mr. Nestoruk was a disabled man and confined to a wheelchair," Houghton said.

"He was a homeless, defenceless victim and this is truly a disturbing and heinous crime. For someone to do this to him, it's tragic."

Houghton said Nestoruk frequented the area around Joyce Street and Kingsway and is appealing to anyone who might have seen him the morning of April 9 to call police.

"Any information, even details that people might not think are important, could be very helpful to assist detectives in establishing a timeline and putting the pieces of this puzzle together," Houghton said. "Investigators are having a hard time piecing together the events leading up to his death."

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Batteries a soldier's best friend

LOGISTICS The military has air power and firepower in Afghanistan, but providing Canadian soldiers with sufficient battery power is a multimillion-dollar concern for the country's war planners, according to an extensive defence department study.

While a rifle may be the soldier's most trusted ally, the modern force can be effectively neutralized without a steady supply of AAs. The simple alkaline battery now powers soldiers' night-vision goggles, flashlights, radios and global-positioning systems, as well as night, thermal and laser-guided gun sights.

The average infantry soldier on a three-day mission in Kandahar carries up to 40 spare AA batteries. That rises to more than 900 batteries for a platoon, 3,200 for a company and 6,500 for a full battle group of about 1,000 soldiers. The cost of equipping all the 2,800 Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan with enough juice to power their equipment for a standard six-month deployment — approximately 750,000 batteries weighing about 14 tonnes — can run up to $1 million. The overall cost of the mission is projected to be $11.3 billion by 2011.

"The added weight of spare batteries being carried by soldiers, the cost of the batteries, and the strain it is placing on the logistics system are all causing concerns for the Canadian Forces," says the 156-page report by Defence Research and Development Canada.

The study looks at alternatives to the AA battery, but finds the other options — batteries made of lithium iron sulphide or the rechargeable nickel-metal hybrid — come up short because they're too expensive or burdensome.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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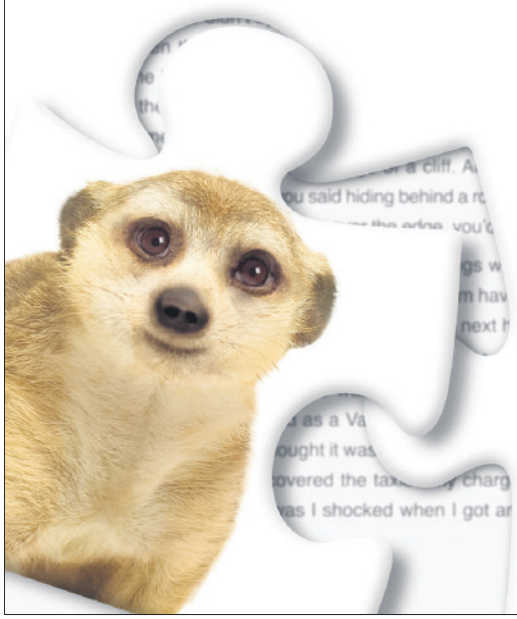

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Britney sends smoke signal
A spokesperson for Orca Bay Sports and Entertainment said the smoke that forced Britney Spears off the stage during her Vancouver performance last week came from cigarettes. The pop diva, who interrupted her concert for nearly half an hour, ended by telling the crowd not to smoke marijuana. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Zoo macaw found under RV

A six-year-old macaw that disappeared from the Greater Vancouver Zoo last week has been found alive under a recreational vehicle. For three days officials feared that Chuva had been stolen as she's unable to fly because her wings have been clipped. Turns out the bird hid under a visiting motorhome and made it all the way to Coquitlam before her loud mouth gave her away. METRO VANCOUVER

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Expert chides NDP's policy

ENVIRONMENT Climate change expert Mark Jaccard said the New Democrats' proposed climate policy would cost the province more than 30,000 direct jobs and 60,000 indirect jobs if it aims to meet the same 2020 reduction in carbon emissions.

In its election platform released Thursday, the NDP said it would scrap B.C.'s carbon tax because it says it lets big polluters off the hook.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

CLUBS City council has rejected a proposal by a popular gay nightclub to relocate to the West End from Howe Street when its lease expires on April 30. The Odyssey Nightclub wants to move to Denman Street, but residents say it would be noisy.

STABBING Police in Surrey are searching for a man who stabbed three people on 108th Avenue. Police said the suspect knew each of the victims, and the stabbing spree appears to have been triggered by a fight.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann on how Canada's new citizenship law reflects current social values at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Apr. 10
Lotto Super 7: 11, 14, 20, 22, 30, 42 & 43 Bonus 38
Extra: 38, 43, 74, 82
Saturday, Apr. 11
Lotto 6/49: 5, 6, 7, 11, 17 & 34 Bonus 48
BC 49: 3, 14, 24, 32, 37 & 38 Bonus 28
Extra: 6, 38, 70, 92
These results are not official.

A bone to pick with the press

Local dog owners claiming media coverage of pit bull attack on boy not fair

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

About a dozen pit bull owners and their dogs walked through Downtown Vancouver yesterday calling for "fair reporting" in dog attacks.

The walk follows an attack Friday on a three-year-old boy in a Surrey home.

The boy was mauled when the family's pit bull, which is usually kept chained outside, ran into the house. He suffered severe injuries to his face, but is expected to survive.

Shelagh Begg of the HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society said she doesn't dispute the facts of the incident, but said people need to look at why the animal attacked.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Kristen Bergum with her three-year-old American pit bull terrier outside the Vancouver Public Library downtown yesterday.

"That poor dog didn't stand a chance," said Begg, who organized yesterday's walk down Robson Street. "That's a dog that has major stress, major frustration, being locked up in a yard 24/7 and then suddenly being allowed in the house.

"It (the pit bull) doesn't know how to interact with people, let alone children."
Shelagh Begg, HugABull Advocacy and Rescue Society, on a recent dog attack

"It doesn't know how to interact with people, let alone children."

Instead of concentrating on the dog's breed, people should look at tethering and what that can do to a dog. "That wasn't a breed issue last night," she said. "That was what happens to dogs tied up in backyards."

Vancouver vs. St. Louis: Head-to-Head

• The Canucks hope their playoffs begin on a high note when they play the St. Louis Blues this week at the start of the National Hockey League playoffs.

The Blues, who should have been singing a swan song after dropping to last place in the Western Conference in mid-February, have risen octave over octave and clinched sixth place yesterday with a 1-0 win over the injury-hobbled Avalanche in Colorado.

Vancouver nabbed the third seed Saturday afternoon also with a 1-0 victory over Colorado. The win secured the team's second Northwest Division title in three years.

Here's a quick look at how the cities stack up:

• Nickname
St. Louis: The Gateway to the West
Vancouver: Lotusland
Edge: St. Louis. The Gateway City hints at discovery. The Land of the Lotus Eaters-moniker evokes a populous too stoned to do much more than explore under the couch pillows for abandoned Cheetos.

• The better Pam:

St. Louis: Pam from NBC's The Office, a.k.a. Jenna Fischer.
Vancouver: Pamela Anderson, a.k.a. Stripperella. **Anderson**
Edge: Vancouver. Pam Anderson is perhaps the biggest sex symbol on the planet. So she scrapped her interview with Metro in August, she made up for it by eating a chicken sandwich on Davie Street.

Fischer

• Coolest Landmark:
St. Louis: The Gateway Arch
Vancouver: Lion's Gate Bridge
Edge: St. Louis. No offence to the Lion's Gate, but The Gateway Arch, the tallest monument in the U.S. (192 metres), is so cool it gives McDonald's arch envy.

• On the world's stage:
St. Louis: 1904 World's Fair and 1904 Summer Olympics
Vancouver: Expo '86 and the 2010 Winter Olympics
Edge: Vancouver. St. Louis may have debuted the waffle cone, but that was 104 stale years ago. McBarge's fries, by comparison, are a relatively fresh 23.

• Cooler mascot:
St. Louis: Louie
Vancouver: Fin
Edge: Vancouver. Louie the Blues' bear is not fit to hold Super Grizz's jockstrap. Fin on the other hand is smoking. Literally. Smoke puffs out his blowhole.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

B.C. avalanche kills Albertan snowmobiler

ACCIDENT A 24-year-old Alberta man has died in an avalanche near the small British Columbia town of Valemount, just east of Jasper.

The circumstances surrounding the accident, right down to its location, are similar to those depicted in a YouTube video posted last week that the Canadian Avalanche Centre used as an example of what snowmobilers shouldn't do. The victim in Friday's slide was part of a group of snowmobilers taking turns riding to the top of a steep slope when they triggered an avalanche.

The man's name has not been released.

METRO VANCOUVER

Man given life in prison for murders

A gangster has been sentenced to life in prison and will serve a minimum of 15 years before he is eligible for parole for his part in the 2007 Surrey Six slayings.

Dennis Karbovanec, 27, was sentenced Thursday by a B.C. Supreme Court judge after pleading guilty to the second-degree murder of Chris Mohan, 22, Ryan Bartolomeo, 19, and Michael Lal, 26, at the Balmoral Tower on Oct. 19, 2007.

He also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to kill.

A ban was placed on publishing details of the sentencing to ensure that three other men, also charged in the slayings, receive a fair trial.

Jamie Bacon, 23, Matt Johnston, 24, and Cody Haevischer, 24, are scheduled to appear in court on May 15.

METRO VANCOUVER

Slain woman remembered

LADNER-BEAUDRY Hundreds of people gathered at the University of B.C. to remember Wendy Ladner-Beaudry, who was killed while jogging in Pacific Spirit Park.

Mourners at Saturday's memorial service remembered the 53-year-old mother of two and sister of former city councillor Peter Ladner as caring, happy and athletic.

Ladner-Beaudry

The previous day, hundreds of people took part in a Take Back the Park walk and run through Pacific Spirit Park to pay homage to Ladner-Beaudry.

Her body was discovered on April 3 on a trail near Southwest Marine Drive and 41st Avenue.

Police have not released a cause of death and no arrests have been made.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

JOBS British Columbia's unemployment rate increased 2.2 percentage points to 7.4 per cent in March after a loss of 23,000 jobs. This brings total employment losses to 69,000 since October 2008, largely driven by decreases in construction and manufacturing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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TRANSLINK

Passport applications going offline
Following concerns over security problems with online passport applications, Passport Canada will discontinue the service at the end of the month. Canada's privacy commissioner criticized the service in a report last year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

No budget adjustments: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said he has no immediate plans to tinker with his budget, unveiled in late January, even though the economy has shed tens of thousands more jobs than the fiscal plan had envisioned, a newspaper reported Saturday. Flaherty's budget, unveiled on Jan. 27, aimed to create or maintain about 190,000 jobs within the current fiscal year, which began April 1.

REUTERS

Dad vies for online visits in Canada

VISITATION RIGHTS Michael Gough has reached across cyberspace to read his daughter Saige bedtime stories and teach her the ABCs. He has even watched her open Christmas presents from 1,000 miles away.

In the real world of divorce, Gough is a pioneer of what's called "virtual visitation" — electronic communication that is the next-best thing to actually being there for non-custodial parents.

"It's meant to supplement, not replace, face-to-face visits," says Gough, who turned to technology when his ex-wife decided to move from Utah to Wisconsin with their then four-year-old daughter in the wake of the couple's 2002 divorce.

Shortly after the move, Gough showed up in court armed for battle, schlepping two laptops with high-speed Internet connections.

It took $10,000 in lawyers' fees and a relatively brief demonstration to convince a family court judge the long-distance dad should be entitled to cyberspace contact with his daughter, in addition to his face-to-face visits.

In 2004, Utah became the first state to make virtual visitation part of divorce legislation.

Similar laws have since been passed in Wisconsin, Florida and Texas.

It's is still a relatively unknown concept in Canada, although Gough hopes to work with fathers' rights groups to get similar access legislation here.

"It makes children feel that we're there, even though we can't be," says Gough, a computer security specialist who relied largely on a webcam to communicate with his daughter before eventually relocating to Wisconsin as well.

To help other parents separated from their kids by divorce, Gough also created a website and virtual visitation handbook at internetvisitaton.org.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cries for help on the rise

Calls to women's shelter increase during economic downturn

Worrying about paying the bills and feeding the kids is always stressful. But in this tough economy, it's resulting in a dramatic increase in calls to the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter.

The shelter has reported 1,366 calls in February alone — a 300 per cent increase from the year before.

Fred, a former abuser who has gone through counselling, says he knows all too well how easily financial stress can trigger emotions.

In Vancouver

- Daisy Kler of the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter says the organization is monitoring its crisis line to see if the recession leads to more calls. The crisis line is on pace to record about 1,400 calls this year.

"I know the number of calls is up right now, and the only thing I can say is try to be positive and work together. It's a difficult time but you just have to try and ride it out," he said.

Fred said the stress of losing a job and not being able to pay bills can take a toll on families.

"But there is no excuse for abuse."

While Fred has gone through counselling over the years and reconciled with his wife of 17 years, other women in the city aren't as fortunate, according to shelter executive director Lisa Falkowsky.

"The number of people seeking support from professional counsellors on our telephone helpline and needing the security of our shelter continues to escalate to numbers and severity we've never seen before," she said.

Falkowsky links the increase to the dwindling economy, but can't pinpoint why Calgary may be higher than the rest of the country, except that Calgary is usually higher to begin with.

"Calgary seems to be hit harder then other cities and people may be taking it harder," she added of the increases.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CANADA

Calgary **Easter fun**

ROBIN KUSINSKI/FOR METRO CANADA

Zha-Zha from Just Kidding paints three-year-old Celia Yu's face at Fort Calgary's annual Spring Fever event yesterday. Kids and families gathered at the event full of arts, crafts and games.

U.S. visa restrictions keep talented engineer in Canada

WORK VISAS Canada should, perhaps, praise the H-1B.

Among others, the American work visa has brought this country Sanjay Mavinkurve, a brilliant Google engineer born in India who helped create the foundation for Facebook while studying at Harvard — and owned Google stock before the company went public.

Mavinkurve, 28, of course, feels slightly different about the visa, whose number-letter combination is seared into the minds of foreign-born professionals who want to work south of the border.

It is why he finds himself in Toronto: The H-1B's spousal complement, the dreaded H-4 or "dependent" visa, means if he wants to stay and work in America his wife, Samvita Padukone, 27, would be chained at home by work restrictions.

The couple married in Mumbai last year. But for the immediate future, they find themselves in Toronto, living with his parents.

Mavinkurve operates out of Google's sales office in downtown Toronto, a lone engineer among marketers. His real team is in California, and he flies out to work with them several times a month, staying for a week or two at a time.

Since the United States is currently only able to grant only 65,000 H-1B visas per year, with additional spots for those who hold U.S. master's degrees, the process is very extremely competitive and clogged with applicants.

Applicants for the H-1B are put forward by their companies and often rejected by the government despite having the necessary skills and experience.

Mavinkurve says he is one of several Google employees stationed in Canada because of American visa restrictions.

Noting that Alberta has directly targeted H-1B holders, he says "Canada is already showing signs of capitalizing on America's misguided "walls."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian threatened with death in Darfur

HOSTAGES Kidnappers holding two aid workers in Sudan's Darfur region said yesterday they will kill them unless Paris retried members of a French group convicted but later pardoned over the abduction of children from Chad.

An unnamed member of a group holding the two female aid workers captive and calling itself the Freedom Eagles of Africa also threatened to target French interests in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic if their demands were unmet.

Stephanie Joidon, a Canadian, and Claire Dubois, a French national, were working for Aid Medicale International when they were seized at gunpoint from their compound in the south Darfur settlement of Ed el Fursan on April 4.

"We demand France open the case of the Zoe's Ark criminals and judge them through a fair court," one of the abductors told Reuters by telephone.

"If the French government is not serious in negotiations with us and does not respond to our request, we will kill the two aid workers," he said.

Six members of humanitarian group Zoe's Ark were jailed in 2007 for trying to fly children, aged between one and 10, out of Chad to Europe. Chad said they had no authorization to take the children out of the country.

The six, who denied the charges, were sentenced to eight years' hard labour by a Chadian court, but were pardoned in March 2008 by Chadian President Idriss Deby.

Joidon, who was allowed by the kidnappers to speak to Reuters, said she and Dubois were being treated well.

"We are OK, we have food and water and they are correct with us, but we can't wait to go home," she said.

The French foreign ministry declined to comment on the case.

REUTERS

Violence at Pakistani mine

Separatist militants in Pakistan's Baluchistan province have claimed responsibility for killing six coal-mine workers as violence intensified in the resource-rich province. Bullet-ridden bodies of six coal-mine workers were found in mountains near Marwar, 35 kilometres east of the provincial capital, Quetta. REUTERS

World

Pope's calls for peace

Pope Benedict called in his Easter message yesterday for a renewed push for Israeli-Palestinian peace just weeks before he travels to the Holy Land for the first time as pontiff. The Pope also sent greetings to survivors of Italy's devastating earthquake and urged all those fearful for their futures, for whatever reason, not to lose hope. REUTERS

UN condemnation of North Korea called 'symbolic'

CRITICS Six world powers have agreed to a draft UN Security Council statement condemning North Korea's rocket launch, but analysts in Asia said yesterday its call for tougher sanctions against Pyongyang may be symbolic at best.

Five permanent council members, including the North's key ally China, and Japan agreed on Saturday to the so-called "presidential statement" with tough wording as a compromise between inaction and Tokyo's demand for a legally binding fresh resolution.

China's decision to sign onto the tough statement indicates Pyongyang will likely shrug off the measure despite its earlier threat to take "strong steps" if the council acted, mainly because the impact of any sanctions would be limited, analysts said.

"The largest significance of the statement is symbolic at best," Yoo Ho-yeol, an expert on the North at Korea University in Seoul, said of the draft statement. "North Korea, if it wants to engage in illegal activities, will do so no matter what."

North Korea said it successfully launched a satellite into space on April 5 but Japan, South Korea and the U.S. said it was a long-range missile test in disguise and no satellite was orbited. REUTERS

News in brief

NEW ORLEANS A teenage mother, her 23-month-old son and a six-year-old boy were found shot to death in an apartment in a crime-ridden neighborhood near New Orleans on Saturday, police officials said. A fourth victim, an 11-year-old girl, underwent surgery for multiple gunshot wounds. The two children were shot in the head.

SRI LANKA The nation's president yesterday ordered the military not to attack the Tamil Tigers during a two-day New Year holiday to let thousands of civilians escape a no-fire zone where they are being held by the separatists. Soldiers have encircled the remnants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in a 17-square-kilometre zone. REUTERS

U.S. captain rescued from pirates

The U.S. Navy shot dead three Somali pirates and rescued cargo ship captain Richard Phillips yesterday from a lifeboat off the coast of Somalia where he was being held captive, ending a five-day standoff.

Phillips' life was in danger when Navy snipers aboard a nearby U.S. destroyer shot his Somali captors, freeing him unharmed and killing three of the four pirates who had held him after trying to seize his vessel, the Navy said. The fourth pirate was in custody.

A U.S. Navy commander made a split-second decision to fire on the pirates because he believed that Phillips, who tried to escape Friday, faced danger amid tense hostage talks with his captors and deteriorating sea conditions.

"They were pointing the AK-47s at the captain," Vice Admiral William Gortney, head of the U.S. Naval Central Command, said in a Pentagon briefing.

U.S. President Barack Obama granted the Pentagon's request for standing authority to use appropriate force to save the life of the captain, Gortney said.

In remarks yesterday, Obama welcomed the rescue, praised the U.S. military and vowed to curb rampant piracy.

Phillips, captain of the Maersk Alabama container ship, had contacted his family, received a medical evaluation, and was resting comfortably. REUTERS

Stricter laws called for

- The drama over the captain's hostage off the coast of Somalia underscores a need for a tighter legal net to fight rampant piracy, U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen said. New international agreements would allow other countries to more effectively protect shipments in Somali waters and try pirates, and give shipping companies an alternative to paying ransoms, he told ABC's This Week.

SUBMITTED PHOTO / REUTERS

Maersk Alabama captain Richard Phillips, right, with Cmdr. Frank Castellano of the USS Bainbridge, after being rescued by U.S naval forces off the coast of Somalia yesterday.

Italy **A bitter Easter**

MAX ROSSI / REUTERS

A family opens chocolate Easter eggs in a tent camp where earthquake victims are sheltering in L'Aquila, Italy, yesterday. The country's worst earthquake in three decades killed at least 293 people and made nearly 40,000 homeless. Rescue efforts ended when exhausted firemen said all missing people had been accounted for on Saturday evening.

Thai army cracks down on anti-government protests

BANGKOK The Thai army cracked down on anti-government protesters early today, firing warning shots at a major junction in the capital at demonstrators who responded by hurling petrol bombs, witnesses said.

The clashes came two days after protesters forced the cancellation of an Asian summit and have undermined confidence in the government and dealt another blow to an economy reeling from political chaos last year and the global financial crisis.

Bangkok Medical Centre director Peeraphong Saicheau told Reuters there had been at least 77 casualties, including 19 admitted to hospitals. Four had gunshot wounds — two civilians and two soldiers.

A number of protesters had been arrested. The fracas began when troops in vehicles with loudspeakers asked the red-shirted protesters to lift a blockade they have maintained for several days at Din Daeng junction, and the protesters refused to do so.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva declared a state of emergency in Bangkok on Sunday after red-shirted supporters of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra forced the cancellation of the Asian summit in the southern beach resort of Pattaya. Some 20,000 were still encamped at Bangkok's Government House. REUTERS

Travel warnings

- Several countries including Singapore and Britain have issued travel advisories for Thailand. The French Foreign Ministry has "strongly recommended" its nationals delay any non-essential trips to Bangkok.

Real IRA threatens to take campaign to Britain

NORTHERN IRELAND A dissident nationalist group in Northern Ireland will carry out attacks in mainland Britain as part of its campaign for a united Ireland, a representative said yesterday.

The Real IRA, a splinter paramilitary group of the Irish Republican Army, also claimed responsibility for the 2006 murder of Denis Donaldson, a former Sinn Fein chief administrator, and made threats against Sinn Fein deputy first minister Martin McGuiness. Sinn Fein is the IRA's political wing.

In an interview with Ireland's Sunday Tribune the representative said it planned to attack Britain "when it becomes opportune."

The Real IRA, which claimed responsibility for killing two British soldiers on March 7, said it would continue to target soldiers in the British province. REUTERS

Protest numbers drop as 5,000 rally against Georgian president

TBILISI Up to 5,000 Georgians rallied on Saturday against President Mikheil Saakashvili, a sharp drop in numbers for the third day of an opposition street campaign to demand his resignation.

Opposition leaders gathered 60,000 on Thursday and 20,000 on Friday, and promised a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience until Saakashvili quits over his record on democracy and last year's disastrous war with Russia.

The president has polarized opinion in the former Soviet republic since coming to power on the back of the 2003 Rose Revolution. He ruled out resigning on Friday. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Squirrels vs. Anne Hines

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

In the past week, many alert Metro readers have messaged me to ask why the column promo that appeared Friday, April 3, had nothing to do with what the column that ran Monday, April 6, was actually about.

So, I thought I'd offer some insight into how a column is created.

Thursday morning, April 2, I e-mailed my Metro editor, informing him that Monday's column would be about squirrels. Squirrels and spring flowers.

And why the fact that I have one means I never, ever have any of the other.

"Mike," I said, "I'm writing about squirrels. Put the word out. People need to know. Squirrels it is. You heard it here first."

I let Mike know this in case he wanted to run a promo in Friday's paper saying something like, "This Monday: Bloom Raiders — Hines vs. Squirrels in the Battle of the Bulbs."

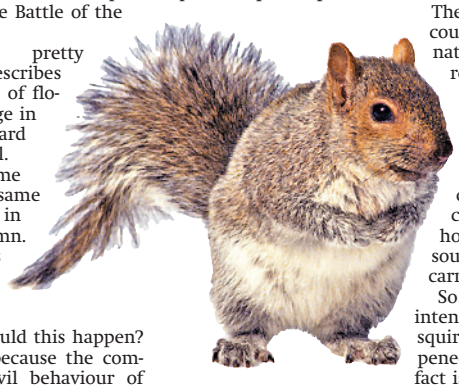
Which pretty much describes the scene of floral carnage in my backyard each April.

Sometime later the same day I sent in the column. It was about buying a used car.

How could this happen? It's not because the completely evil behaviour of squirrels hopped up on exotic Dutch tulip bulbs isn't of concern. I once wrote an entire article about how I'd like to blow up every squirrel in the world.

I got a lot of reader mail about that one. Mostly from gardeners wanting to know if blowing up squirrels is legal.

So, a piece titled Squirrels: What Are They Good For? seemed like a fine idea. I even contacted a squirrel expert to pose this



question. Our conversation went like this. Seriously.

Me: So, squirrels. More useless than beer glasses and nipple rings, right?

SE: Well … tourists like them.

Me: Excuse me?

SE: People visiting from cities that don't have squirrels find it interesting to see wild animals in the city.

Me: Do they also come from places that don't have teenagers?

Then it hit me. My city could become the international centre for squirrel tourism.

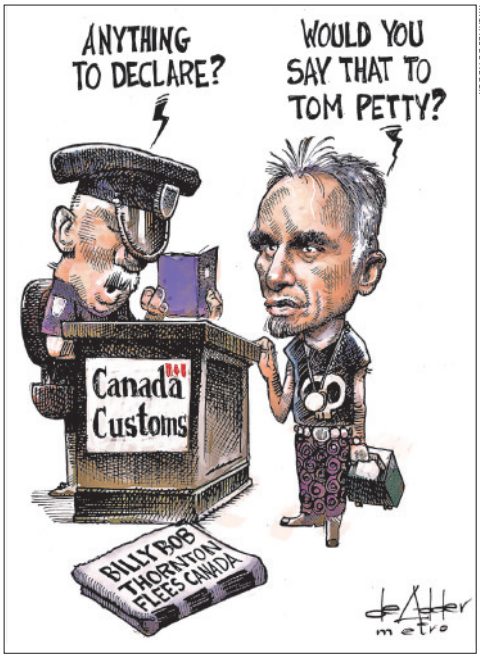
Way better than ecotourism. They frown on you stashing a koala in your bag, whereas our clients would be encouraged to take home as many furry souvenirs as they can carry.

So, you see, I had every intention of writing about squirrels. But what happened is … I didn't. The fact is the creative-writing process is an unmanageable, untamable thing.

Much like creative writers.

Or, I guess, squirrels.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

B.C. cross-border train still can't leave the station

InTransit

Derek Moscato

metronews.ca/moscato

It is astonishing that a long-awaited second passenger train connecting Vancouver to Seattle is still in serious limbo.

Why the holdup? The Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) wants $1,500 per day from Amtrak to serve this train. Not surprisingly, the U.S. rail operator refuses to cave to their financial demands.

British Columbians should be furious. After all, $3 million of their tax dollars helped provide extra rail capacity for this initiative.

In addition to the B.C. government and Amtrak, the train has support from Tourism B.C., the State of Washington and the Vancouver Olympics Committee.

Word that the CBSA will provide service for the train during the 2010 Winter Games does nothing to sort out this matter in the months leading up to the Olympics, or the period after.

What kind of post-Games legacy is that?

Last month, I wrote to John Baird, Canada's minister of transport, to find out more about Ottawa's role in this. I have yet to hear back from him.

But I have heard back from Quebec-based Harry Gow, a tireless rail advocate and government watchdog who is the founding president of the group Transport 2000.

Over the past year, he and his Transport 2000 colleagues have chased down politicians and bureaucrats connected to this saga. And what they have uncovered is deeply troubling.

According to Gow, documentation returned from Access to Information requests shows the CBSA took two years to respond to correspondence from Amtrak about arrangements to clear international passengers. Given this pathetic episode, it would be hard to blame British Columbians for feeling they are better served by American officials than by their own federal government.

It's high time for Baird and Peter Van Loan, the minister of public safety who is responsible for the CBSA, to come forward and explain Ottawa's position.

There's a cruel irony to all of this.

Rail travel is hailed by economists and environmentalists as a progressive alternative to road and air transport. South of the border, U.S. President Barack Obama is looking to high-speed rail to transform America's cities and usher in a new era of smart transportation.

But don't expect that philosophy to fly north of the 49th parallel. "The CBSA is no friend of the passenger train," says Gow.

Asked about high-speed rail eventually reaching Metro Vancouver, he laughs about the border agency's potential reaction.

"I shudder to think what they would charge."

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics; dmoscato@yahoo.com.

Worth Mentioning

U.S. environmental factors pushing gas prices higher

The average U.S. retail gasoline price rose about 10 cents a gallon over the past three weeks due to environmental costs linked to warmer weather, though the price was 40 per cent lower than a year earlier, according to the Lundberg survey released yesterday.

The average national price for self-serve, regular, unleaded gasoline was $2.048 US a gallon on April 10, up 9.58 cents from March 20, according to the survey of gas stations.

The price was a whopping $1.27 below year-ago levels, when crude-oil prices soared.

"The major cause of the rise of nearly a dime in three weeks is seasonal gasoline demand, not only because our consumption rises month by month, but because of the cost of environmental compliance," survey editor Trilby Lundberg said in an interview.

As the weather warms, refiners are required to limit vapour pressure in order to avoid smog production. This will add to the cost across North America, she said.

The lower gas prices could spur demand, which is likely to result in a rise in prices, but nowhere near the record $4.112 per gallon set on July 11, 2008.

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

47% SAID More	Since the beginning of the year, have you become more or less optimistic about the economy? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	53% SAID Less

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
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Alcoa laying off 275 at Quebec plant
U.S. aluminum company Alcoa Inc. is laying off about 275 workers at its Quebec smelter in Becancour after the union refused to cut workers' hours to help trim costs. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

Wal-Mart workers get contract

It took nearly four years, but unionized workers at a Quebec Wal-Mart store now have their first collective agreement, a first in North America. A Quebec arbitrator sealed the two-year deal for employees at the St-Hyacinthe Wal-Mart east of Montreal earlier this week. The new agreement includes a $0.30-per-hour wage increase on a yearly basis for current employees. CBC NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Canada lagging on wireless

70% penetration rate ranks near bottom of recent survey

Canada may be the home of the popular BlackBerry smartphone, but the country remains rather pokey when it comes to the number of people that actually use wireless devices.

Despite being an otherwise tech-savvy nation, Canada's rate of wireless penetration continues to hover at a meagre 70 per cent, a survey released last Thursday by research firm TNS has found.

That puts Canada near the bottom of 31 other countries in the online survey, on par with Vietnam and Mexico and just ahead of last-ranked India.

The survey also found Canadians are only willing to spend about $140 on their next device. By contrast, users in other countries are willing to shell out as much as $490, a discrepancy that's partly due to the history of Canadian carriers subsidizing handset prices in exchange for locking subscribers into lengthy wireless contracts.

The findings were released on the same day that Telus Corp. said a weak economy would hurt first-quarter wireless results after dragging down subscriber additions and the average price of customers' monthly bills.

But while cash-strapped Canadians are cutting back on their wireless spending, critics argue limited competition and high wireless prices have also played a role in keeping cellphone customers on the sidelines.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market fears

- Telus Corp.'s stock fell 11 per cent to close at $31.58 on the Toronto Stock Exchange last week, while shares of Rogers Communications Inc. and BCE Inc. also slumped amid concerns about a slowdown in the wireless sector.

China Scrambling for work

REUTERS/CHINA DAILY

Graduates crowd in front of an information board outside a job fair held in Lanzhou, Gansu province yesterday. The global economic crisis has made it all the more important to take a fresh look at China's human resources. The country's immediate challenge is to tackle unemployment, while in the long run it has to develop human resources to support a shift in its growth strategy, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Business in brief

EMPLOYMENT Canadian employers cut 61,000 net jobs in March, pushing the unemployment rate in Canada up 0.3 of a percentage point to eight per cent. The numbers mark a seven-year high.

MUSIC The concert industry is awaiting details about U.S. legislation that would impose a 48-hour waiting period after a concert on-sale before a ticket reseller can buy those tickets to put on the secondary market.

MARKETS If Wells Fargo's strong first-quarter preliminary performance is any sign, stocks could rally further this week on any reassuring news when three other big banks post quarterly results.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ruff to head Team Canada

Buffalo Sabres bench boss Lindy Ruff has been named head coach of the Canadian team for the upcoming IIHF World Hockey Championship in Switzerland. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Driver charged with murder

A 22-year-old man was charged with three counts of murder and drunken driving Friday in the crash that killed Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two others. Police allege Andrew Thomas Gallo ran a red light in California's Orange County early Thursday and broadsided a car carrying Adenhart and three friends. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 6 N.Y. Islanders 2
Chicago 3 Detroit 0
N.Y. Rangers 4 Philadelphia 3
St. Louis 1 Colorado 0

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Calgary 4 Edmonton 1
Pittsburgh 3 Montreal 1
Toronto 5 Ottawa 2
VANCOUVER 1 Colorado 0 (OT)
Atlanta 6 Tampa Bay 2
Buffalo 6 Boston 1
Chicago 4 Detroit 2
Florida 7 Washington 4
Los Angeles 4 San Jose 3
Minnesota 6 Columbus 3
New Jersey 3 Carolina 2
Philadelphia 3 N.Y. Islanders 2
Phoenix 5 Anaheim 4 (SO)

END REGULAR SEASON

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 111 Philadelphia 104
Cleveland 107 Boston 76
Miami 122 New York 105
New Orleans 102 Dallas 92
San Antonio 95 Sacramento 92
L.A. Lakers 92 Memphis 75

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Toronto at Washington
Cleveland at Indiana
Charlotte at New Jersey
Chicago at Detroit
Orlando at Milwaukee
New Orleans at Houston
Minnesota at Dallas
Sacramento at Denver
L.A. Clippers at Utah
Memphis at Phoenix
Oklahoma City at Portland
San Antonio at Golden State

Americans defend title against Canada

HOCKEY The U.S. won its second consecutive women's world hockey championship with a 4-1 win over Canada yesterday in Finland.

The Americans have won back-to-back titles for the first time after beating Canada 4-3 in last year's final in China.

The Americans are 4-2 versus Canada in their last six games and are 3-0 in finals in their last three international tournaments.

Caitlin Cahow scored a pair of goals and Meghan Duggan also scored for the U.S. Hilary Knight added an empty-net goal.

Winnipeg's Jennifer Botterill replied for Canada.

The Americans scored on their first shift of the game. Jenny Potter found Cahow on the edge of Canada's crease and Cahow backhanded the puck over goalie Charline Labonte's pad 24 seconds after the opening face-off.

Host Finland won the bronze medal for the ninth time in the tournament's history with a 4-1 win over Sweden earlier in the day.

Canada and the U.S. have scheduled six exhibition games against each other next winter. In addition to the Four Nations Cup in Finland, an Olympic test event will be held in Vancouver starting Aug. 31.

The Hockey Canada Cup will feature Canada, the U.S., Sweden and Finland.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cabrera the Master

Argentina's Angel Cabrera won his second major title with a nerve-jangling playoff victory at the Masters yesterday.

The 2007 U.S. Open champion edged out Americans Kenny Perry and Chad Campbell, clinching the Green Jacket with a par four at the second extra hole.

After hitting his approach to 12 feet, Cabrera calmly two-putted before raising his right arm in celebration.

Perry, 48, bidding to become golf's oldest major champion, had overshot the green with his second stroke and was unable to save par after chipping back 18 feet past the hole.

Campbell, like Perry seeking his first major triumph, dropped out when he bogeyed the first extra hole, the par-four 18th, after hitting his approach into a bunker.

World No. 1 and four-time winner Tiger Woods had to settle for a share of sixth place at eight under after bogeying the last two holes for a 68. Calgary's Stephen Ames was the top Canadian, tying for 20th at two over. REUTERS

Angel Cabrera celebrates his par-saving putt on the first sudden-death playoff hole at the Masters yesterday.

It all comes down to Luongo

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

metronews.ca/toulbox

The next few days will be filled with speculation as to how the Vancouver Canucks will match up with the St. Louis Blues.

There will be talk of how each club finished the regular season, and of the four games the two teams played during the year.

However, the most important factor in Vancouver's chances of banishing the Blues has nothing to do with the opposition. Roberto Luongo's play over the past three games has been nothing short of spectacular.

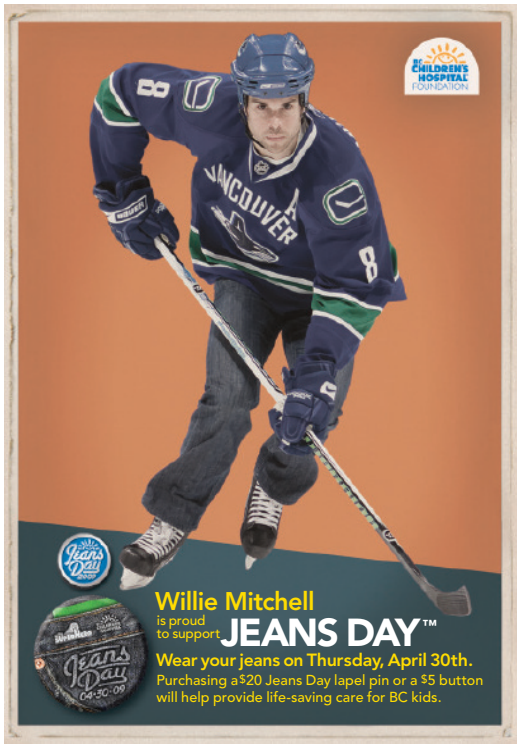
The Canucks captain closed the regular season with back-to-back shutouts on the heels of one of his greatest performances in a Vancouver jersey, a 46-save effort against the Calgary Flames.

Though the Canucks have proven over the course of 82 games that they are capable of winning games in a variety of manners, Luongo represents the most significant advantage that Vancouver can claim against any potential opponent.

If you want proof that he relishes the increased intensity of the post-season, look no further than the 1.77 goals-against average and .942 save percentage he posted two years ago.

So while some may be fretting that the Canucks managed just two goals in as many games to end the season, the No. 1 reason for optimism is the play of No. 1 himself.

Scott Rintoul can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.
scott.rintoul@team1040.ca.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Going Green

Shoppers offers green line

Shoppers Drug Mart gives Canadians an effective new way to clean at home and be good to the planet with the Earth-friendly Clean Planet product line. Formulated and produced in Canada by Qwatro Corp., Clean Planet features a comprehensive range of home cleaning products that are biodegradable, phosphate-free and recyclable.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

Simple sustainability

Remember the central importance of simple pleasures

Eco-**Minded**
Kai Chan

metronews.ca/ecominded

Sustainability is not simple — it's simplicity. I finally truly grasped this notion during the last 12 weeks, as I took time off work to be primary caregiver to my newborn daughter. (Sorry for the absence — I'm back!)

Humanity will only "get green" when it remembers the central importance of simple pleasures. Flashy gadgets and thrill-seeking experiences may satisfy fleeting wishes. But our deepest desires — those of love and wonder — need nurturing. We need to cuddle our infants, surrender to the serenity of the forest, and play amongst the tide pools. Sometimes technology helps us with this, but sometimes it just clutters our consciousness.

So let's stop the spiralling of fleeting obsessions, like for fast cars, whirlwind trips, and gizmo gadgets. They hurt our ecosystems and don't lead to our contentment as individuals. We shouldn't pursue growth for growth's sake, but rather seek the conditions that promote joy, passion and creativity.

PHOTO COURTESY KAI CHAN

Metro columnist Kai Chan holds his daughter, Taya Samara. Caring for a newborn led to a smaller carbon footprint for the Chan family.

Time for re-evaluation

- With the global economy in crisis, now is the time to re-evaluate what really matters to us individually and collectively, to ensure that we meet needs in the short and long term.
- Our consumption-oriented society seems premised on the notion that creation of desires through advertising is inherently good.
- But an excess of desires undermines inner peace, which is central to satisfaction.

For 12 weeks, I watched my daughter grow, learn, and embrace the world with joyful exuberance. Her smiles, giggles and bouncing antics required neither travel nor purchases, so we didn't consume much and our carbon footprints were low. Yet, this simple time was the most formative and rewarding time of my adult life.

Prevailing societal norms promote lives that are fundamentally out of balance. We race through the good parts. When we recover our poise and awareness — only then will we achieve sustainability, globally and individually. Seek simplicity.

Kai Chan is an assistant professor and Canada Research Chair at the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability (IRES) at UBC; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Embrace the new breed of lawn care

CRAIG MACPHERSON
for Metro Canada

On April 22 (Earth Day) the Ontario provincial government will implement the ban of pesticides for cosmetic use. It's also a hot topic in municipalities across the country.

This has left many in the lawn care industry scrambling to find effective alternatives, or reposition their brand.

The best way to keep your lawn weed-free and resistant to disease and insect infestation is a sound maintenance program that begins with soil testing.

By testing your soil and having it evaluated by an accredited lab you can find out what deficiencies your soil may have and treat them organically with a program designed specifically for your lawn.

Sounds expensive, but it's not. This procedure can be completed for around $40.

Next, whether you're a do-it-yourselfer, or have a lawn company taking care of your lawn, proper fertilization, aeration (preferably twice a year), watering, cutting and over-seeding are key.

Annual fall over-seeding especially is your golden ticket to success, but be careful. Don't skimp and buy cheap seed. The less expensive the seed, the more weed seeds you'll be putting back into your lawn. Likewise, topsoil is just as bad. Remember, we are trying to prevent the germination of weeds, not add to the problem.

One suggestion is a low-maintenance seed blend like Eco-Lawn, which doesn't require topsoil, has a deep root system, performs well in shade as well as full sun, and grows slowly.

For too long the lawn care industry has been feeding the top growth instead of your soil, creating a shallow root system for your grass.

Why? Because it's faster and more cost-effective to do it that way.

Now it's your turn to save time and money and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time.

Embrace the new breed of lawn care.

Eco-friendly seed

- Grass seeds like Eco-Lawn are the most inexpensive and environmentally friendly way to keep your lawn thick and weed-free. Over time, you won't need to care as much for your lawn, you will conserve water and cut down on lawn mower emissions, without fertilizer, or weed control.

Craig MacPherson is the owner of Durham Lawn Jockey, an Ontario-based lawn care company.

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I'M THINKING
Future Friendly

Metro Workology exclusive: Paws and Claws
Be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work for our pet industry feature series Paws and Claws. Seen here are Sooshi the Jack Russel Terrier and Kupo the cat, submitted by a loyal Metro reader.

Workology

Western Canada needs boost

In order to address the large high school drop-out rate and low PSE enrolment in Western Canada, the four western provinces should join forces to set and work towards a higher graduation target for the region, according to a new report from the Canada West Foundation. The problem is particularly dire in Saskatchewan and Manitoba because of their expansive rural areas, states the report. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Finding diamonds in the poop

Metro explores the world of those who pick up where dogs leave off

Last week was International Poop Scoopers Week, Metro talked to a few in the trade and asked them why they do what they do.

Paws and **Claws**

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Canada

It takes a special kind of person to turn turds into money, but a brave brotherhood of poop scoopers do just that.

To celebrate International Poop Scoopers Week (April 1-7), Metro got the inside scoop from the professionals who pick up where your pet left off.

Alain Gauthier has been tidying up backyards in Toronto for 10 years. A dog-trainer by trade, he was inspired by an ad he saw for the U.S. doody giant Pet Butler.

Reached on his cellphone as he patrolled a customer's yard, Gauthier said the business has taken off.

"Poop Patrol has flourished bigger than my training," he said. "You need to be an outdoors person. (You have to like) the birds, the foxes, the rabbits; the nature around you. If you'd prefer to be in a cubicle, it's definitely not for you."

Gauthier has more than 100 regular clients and three scoopers working for him. Poop Patrol got so successful he no longer had to scoop himself but, after a little break, he returned to the trenches.

"I missed the thinking time. It's a great time to zone out, do the work and think and dream," the philosopher-scooper said. "I also started gaining weight. It's a great way to stay physically active while getting paid."

He gives staff a two-day training course covering the health basics and how to read dogs and work with customers.

"Most of my employees are seniors," he says. "Seniors are the greatest. They have a good work ethic, they're not in a rush — they're careful and take pride in their work."

Mic Melanson is also hoping to scoop to conquer. The Halifax man recently opened Scoopy-Poo, an East Coast pet waste removal company. He packed in his job in express delivery to start collecting less pleasant packages.

He had his epiphany when he missed a golf tee time because he got sidetracked cleaning up after his dog.

"It's not that I didn't like doing it, but that I didn't have time to do it. When I resigned, I had lots of time to do it," he explained.

He's had some doozies: One lady had five dogs in a small run.

"There was six to eight inches of poop on the patio, yard, everywhere. I was there for about three hours," Melanson said.

"Other people see poop; I see money."

"Poop Patrol has flourished bigger than my training. You need to be an outdoors person. (You have to like) the birds, the foxes, the rabbits; the nature around you. If you'd prefer to be in a cubicle, it's definitely not for you."
Poop Patrol owner Alain Gauthier

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Metro readers' best friends

As part of the Paws and Claws series

• Metro would like thank everyone who sends in a picture of their pet, we'll try to post as many as we publish throughout the month of April.

Bart the Basenji-Shepherd mix shows off his bunny ears.

Metro reader Lindsay brought out her bunnies for Easter.

Bessy the Black Lab in some Easter regalia.

Marlee the Golden Retriever is still going strong at 10 years old.

Lucious the Boxer celebrates Easter.

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TORONTO
Venue: COURTYARD MARRIOTT - 475 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M4Y 1X7.
Date: 18th April 2009
Time: 0900 a.m. sharp

VANCOUVER
Venue: PAN PACIFIC VANCOUVER - Suite 300-999 Canada Place, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6C 3B5.
Date: 25th April 2009
Time: 0900 a.m. sharp

Please bring your resume along with full length and passport size photographs. Shortlisted candidates will be required to attend further processes during the course of the week.

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How Canadians can turn a turbulent stock market into massive profits

"I've made money in every kind of market — up, down, and sideways. Let me show you why today's volatile market is ideal for investors."

George Fontanills, founder of Optionetics, is a Harvard-educated, internationally renowned best-selling author, and options trading expert.

Canada's economy is being hit hard along with the rest of the world. Job cuts are on the rise. Home values are falling like never before. The recession hits some industries hard, while others escape. From Vancouver to Toronto to Wall Street, it's little wonder the markets are volatile… up 100 to 200 points one day, and down 100 to 200 points the next. Most investors think they can't make money in markets like this. But I can show you how.

THE SECRET IS OPTIONS

Let's face it. For most people, buying a stock is a one-way street. They buy and hold the stock, hoping it will go up. But the smart investors know there's a much better way to profit in the market. In fact, they love the massive volatility of today's market because that's where the massive profits are made.

MARKET VOLATILITY WORKS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

As the Canadian and global markets react to an economic meltdown and ensuing political battles, today's extreme volatility in the financial markets could become the new norm. Many investors have pulled out. But you can't make money sitting on the sidelines. It is time to change your investment strategy to one that can succeed in unstable markets.

OPTIONS EXCEL IN TURBULENT MARKETS

Certain wealthy investors have always known how to multiply their returns and minimize their risk. You see, for every $1,000 you put in stocks, they only put in $150 – $200 to achieve the same investment muscle. How? Because they use options to leverage or control a stock rather than buy it, extending the power of their investment dollar. That's how the wealthy play the stock market, without the risk of actually buying the stock.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF OPTIONETICS® FREE OF CHARGE

You're invited to attend my FREE Optionetics workshop. It will change the way you look at the stock market forever and show you the tools you need to protect your investment the same way I do.

STRATEGIES FOR UNCERTAIN TIMES

- See how it's possible to make money in today's volatile market.
- Discover strategies once reserved for a small group of industry traders.
- Understand the market's hidden factors better than current investors.
- Learn to control stocks without the expense or risk of buying them.
- Discover practical techniques for making more money in this type of market.

Who Should Attend

- Investors looking to minimize risk and protect profits
- Investors looking to diversify
- Investors looking to salvage their investment portfolio
- Anyone who has been hammered in today's market

Investors Can't Stop Talking About Their Optionetics Experience!

"I find trading options very exciting. In just 13 days I made a 130 percent return. No boss, no employees and I am not limited on where to live. This system gives me the freedom I've been seeking."
— Miroslav Kavicky
Peachland, BC

"The seminar was very important, worth the money, and very necessary. I made $10,000 in profits in less than two weeks!"
— John Pardo
Victoria, BC

"One of the things I love about Optionetics seminars is that I learn something new at every one. Best trade ever was a call on Amgen for a 250% return."
— Allreza Givehchian
Calgary, AB

BONUS

This one secret could change your financial future!

Learn how it's possible to make money no matter which way the market moves. The market goes up… you make money. The market goes down… you still make money.

Plus discover:

- ✓ 2 crucial elements to trading success
- ✓ 6 major types of outside risk you can manage
- ✓ 3 disastrous mistakes most investors make (easy to avoid; hard to recover from)

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Not sure where to invest in today's market?
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Discover bear market strategies that have produced bullish gains.

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
April 13, 2009	April 14, 2009	April 15, 2009
1 p.m. or 7 p.m.	1 p.m. or 7 p.m.	9 a.m. or 1 p.m.
Vancouver Fairmont	**Langley City Coast Hotel & Convention Centre**	**Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel**
900 West Georgia Street	20393 Fraser Highway	15269 104th Avenue
Vancouver	Langley	Surrey

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COP HYCCFP- Metro Vancouver - Vancouver Wk15

Health science facility opens
Recently, Vancouver Community College officially opened its $56.4-million health science building, to which the B.C. government contributed over $45 million. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Just call her 'The Sleep Doula'

OddJobs

Diane Peters
Metronews.ca/oddjobs

When babies can't fall asleep and wake up constantly in the night, it makes new parents crazy with exhaustion and frustration.

To save their sanity — and their marriages — some call in sleep doula Tracey Ruiz.

Ruiz, 39, is also a regular doula who attends births and helps parents postpartum. Eleven years ago, however, she'd only been to one birth — her own Cesarian section with her son.

Then, while pregnant with her daughter, a friend needed a lift to the hospital. Ruiz stayed for the entire labour, holding her hand and talking to her. After the birth, which Ruiz thought was "amazing" the nurse said, "You should be a doula."

"What? You can get paid to do this?" Ruiz thought. But after her second maternity leave, Ruiz went back to her job at FedEx. A few years later, when the company started a program where it offered sabbaticals, she took one and began training through Doulas of North American.

She never went back, but instead began attending births and helping parents with newborns. "It's been a great business to grow as my children have grown," she says.

Ruiz got known for her nighttime post-partum support. Then more and more clients wanted assistance with sleep. So she trademarked the name "The Sleep Doula" four years ago and created a new service.

Today, Ruiz's Birth Solutions employs ten doulas, four of whom also do sleep (it makes up about 60 per cent of the business).

Some customers sign up for Ruiz's so-called epidural to sleep training: In-home support. For this, Ruiz shows up at the child's bedtime. The parents put the baby down awake and Ruiz stays in the room shushing the baby to sleep.

Whenever the little one wakes up, Ruiz is there — lying in front of the crib wrapped in a comforter — to shush and chat the baby back to sleep. On night two, she just shushes. By night three, the parents can do the job.

By the end of the week, parents usually have an excellent sleeper.

With all this night work and her BlackBerry going off at all hours, Ruiz herself rarely gets eight hours in a row.

"I sleep here and there," she says.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Sleep doula
Salary: Charges $225 to $1,300
Education/training: Courses through Doulas of North America.
Best Part of the Job: "Watching the change in a family from being exhausted, with a lot of marital tension, to seeing an empowered, well-rested family."
Worst Part of the Job: "Hardwood floors. And not being able to put my own kids down to bed at night."

DIANE PETERS PHOTO
Tracey Ruiz has dubbed herself, The Sleep Doula.

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Leadership key to staying ahead of the curve: Study

Employing good people is a company's best line of defence against the competition, a recent survey of chief financial officers (CFOs) suggests.

More than half (55 per cent) of executives interviewed said that having solid leadership and hiring outstanding talent are the best ways to protect against threats from rival firms. State-of-the-art technology is also viewed as a significant advantage, cited by 24 per cent of respondents.

The survey was developed by Robert Half Finance & Accounting, the world's first and largest specialized financial recruitment service. It was conducted by an independent research firm and is based on interviews with more than 1,400 CFOs.

CFOs were asked, "Which one of the following will best protect companies from competitive threats in the next three years?" The top three responses:

Strong company leadership: 28 per cent
A focus on hiring the best people: 27 per cent
Up-to-date technology: 24 per cent

"In any economy, an organization's most valuable asset is its people, but this is even more true in uncertain times when a company's survival may depend on strong leadership and maintaining high customer service levels."
Human resource expert Max Messmer

"In any economy, an organization's most valuable asset is its people, but this is even more true in uncertain times when a company's survival may depend on strong leadership and maintaining high customer service levels," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International.

"Companies must be able to quickly shift gears to take advantage of new opportunities, which requires clear vision and capable staff."

Messmer noted, "With outstanding performers now in the job market, companies have access to professionals who would not have been available one year ago. Even though managers are closely watching budgets, it makes sense to hire people who can help the company enhance its depth of skills and expertise and grow now and in the future."

Keeping current with technology also remains critical for companies to maintain a competitive edge, according to Messmer.

The Robert Half study was conducted by an independent research firm and is based on more than 1,400 telephone interviews with CFOs from a random sample of companies with 20 or more employees.

For the study to be statistically representative and ensure that companies from all segments are represented, the sample was stratified by geographic region and employee size. The results were then weighted to reflect the proper proportions of employee size within each region. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celeb couple expecting
Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr. are expecting their first child, a source tells People magazine. "They're very excited," the source says of the couple, who have been married for six years. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Federer weds
Tennis champ Roger Federer scored a big win over the weekend when he married longtime girlfriend and former tennis player Miroslava Vavrinec in Switzerland.
METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Corner Gas runs dry

Canadian sitcom closes shop after six seasons on CTV

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Brent Butt thinks his decision to end Corner Gas was a good one. Well, he's pretty sure, anyway.

"It's something that has kept me awake at night, wondering if I made the right call," says series creator/star Butt, who is pulling the plug on the CTV sitcom tonight after six phenomenally successful seasons.

"Should we end the show? But the answer that always comes back to me is yes, every time."

Still, as decisions go, it was a tough one. Corner Gas wasn't exactly ER, stumbling towards its demise. Corner Gas still averages more than a million Canuck viewers in an era when half that would get you renewed.

"If you like Corner Gas, you'll like how we end it. I like how we end it."
Brent Butt

As well, it's not like popular Canadian comedies come along every day.

"Early on, CTV said to me it's your call on ending the show," recalls Butt. "And I started getting a feeling a while back — is the time right? I really didn't want the show to repeat itself. But it was 107 episodes. It's not like we just got started."

For fans, tonight's finale will be a daylong experience that begins with a cast tribute on Canada AM. Later, a 7:30 p.m. (ET) retrospective special provides a lead-in for the Corner Gas finale at 9:30 p.m..

"It's a crazy day. But in a good way. Hunter S. Thompson said there's a good weird and bad weird. And this is a good weird."

Although he was reluctant to give details on the finale, Butt thinks it will deliver what fans want.

"If you like Corner Gas, you'll like how we end it. I like how we end it."

As for his future, Butt has already shot a TV pilot for another series (Hiccups). There's also a feature film in his future.

But one wonders about his future. Does Butt worry about being typecast as that lovable schlub on Corner Gas?

"I don't know. I never thought of myself as an actor. I feel I act the way Bob Hope or Bob Newhart act. Whether the part is a welder, a detective or an astronaut, I'm always the same guy."

Pump it up

- The finale of Corner Gas airs tonight on CTV.

Corner Gas averages more than a million viewers, but show creator and star Brent Butt says the time is right to pull the plug.

Hannah Montana hits target

Hannah Montana: The Movie
Director: Peter Chelsom
Stars: Miley Cyrus
Classification: G
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

If you're not the parent of a 10 year-old girl, perhaps the phenomenon that is the hit TV show-turned-movie Hannah Montana has somehow escaped your world. For such uneducated souls, let me bring you up to speed.

Miley Cyrus plays Miley Stewart, a simple country-girl who also just happens to lead a double-life as Hannah Montana, the most famous pop star in the world.

As Miley, she carries on about her normal life with her father (played by real dad, Billy Ray) escaping notice from her famous alter-ego. And how does she pull off that incredible feat exactly? Well, by wearing a blonde wig of course.

In the big-screen adaptation, Miley's alter-ego is becoming too bloated for her own good when she gets in a shoe-fight with Tyra Banks. "Think of it as a Hannah detox," Miley's father explains before hijacking her back to Tennessee where the reluctant star discovers family, love and most importantly, heraw-shucks-self.

Yes, the plot of Hannah Montana is as conventional and simple as that; there's no mistaking its means to cater to a pre-pubescent audience by keeping things structured and easy. But you know what? That's OK.

For what this film aims to be, it mostly works.

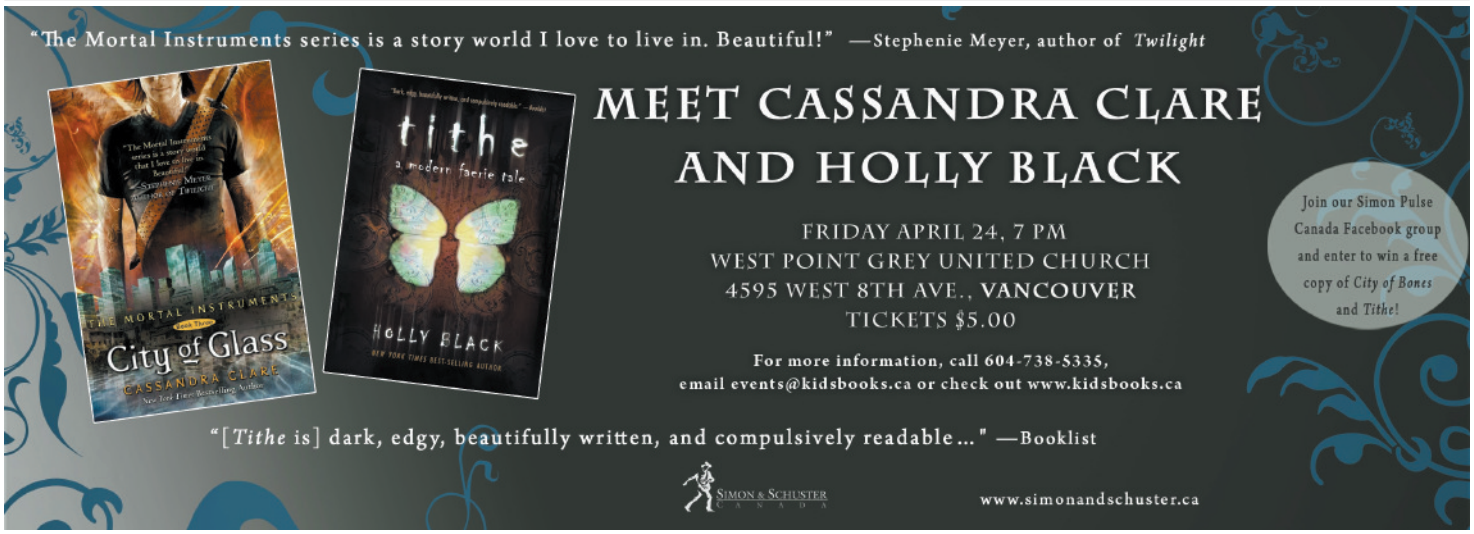
Billy Ray Cyrus and Miley Cyrus star in Hannah Montana: The Movie.

Sure, there are some expected plot holes and flat bits (like the pointless, unfunny brother character and a cornball ending), but infused with cute, down-home gags and catchy, countrified pop, Hannah Montana will definitely uplift its young audience without overly annoying the adults. Though, I'll be honest — I could still use a Hannah detox myself.

Box office

1. **Hannah Montana: The Movie:** $34 million US
2. **Fast & Furious:** $28.8 million
3. **Monsters vs. Aliens:** $22.6 million
4. **Observe and Report:** $11.1 million
5. **Knowing:** $6.7 million
6. **I Love You, Man:** $6.4 million
7. **The Haunting in Connecticut:** $5.7 million
8. **Dragonball Evolution:** $4.7 million
9. **Adventureland:** $3.4 million
10. **Duplicity:** $3.0 million

REUTERS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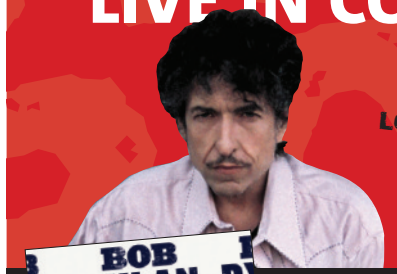

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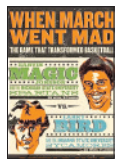
Bob Dylan – Together Through Life
Brand new studio album In stores and on line April 28th, 2009.

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age. Contest closes April 17, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

metro

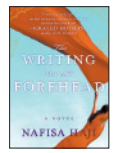
Game that changed it all



When March Went **Mad**

Author: Seth Davis
Publisher: Times Books
Price: $29 (Hardcover)

On March 26, 1979, two college basketball teams came head to head in the NCAA finals in Salt Lake City. Each had slayed their own hurdles to get to the game. And each had a star player that would change basketball — and the relevance of the sport at the college level — forever. Sports Illustrated writer Seth Davis traces the roots of then Michigan State Spartan, Earvin "Magic" Johnson and then Indiana State Sycamore Larry Bird, observing their influence of the game in America. Davis marks just when and why March turned (and stayed) mad.

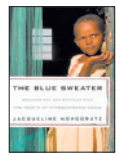


The Writing on my **Forehead**

Author: Nafisa Haji
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: $22.99 (Paperback)

Nafisa Haji takes readers on an international, intergenerational trip of self-realization in The Writing on my Forehead. A California teen of Indo-Pakistani heritage Saira Qader comes to the early conclusion that she doesn't want to follow the constricting traditions of her family. Instead, she pursues journalism to learn and report on the ways and wars of others. But a tragedy later in life calls her loyalties into question. Saira must decide whether to continue to blaze her own trail, or, seemingly more appealing, return home to face formalities but compromise her independence.

BookPicks



The Blue **Sweater**

Author: Jacqueline Novogratz
Publisher: Rodale
Price: $27.95 (Hardcover)

Before Jacqueline Novogratz started the non-profit anti-poverty Acumen Fund, the chance acquisition of a blue sweater shifted her life's focus from the bottom line to battling poverty. Novogratz had her "Eureka!" moment when the gift she'd been given and later donated to Goodwill ended up on the back of a boy she met while travelling in Rwanda. In her memoir The Blue Sweater, Novogratz recalls how the occurrence enlightened her to the interconnectedness of the world and encouraged her call to action. Novogratz explores why conventional charitable means aren't always so effective and offers an alternative.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

primetime 4/13/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie	Comedy Fest	Comedy Fest.	CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	The Soup	How I Met	My Boys	Engagement	Tori Spelling Hollywood Story		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	Live at etalk	Its a Gas	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Two/Half Men	Corner Gas	CSI: Miami "Chip/Tuck" (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	The Practice (CC)		One Tree Hill "Letting Go"		Scrubs (CC)	Randall Mark	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House "Saviors" (N) (CC)		Heroes "1961" (N) (CC)		24 "Day 7: 1:00AM - 2:00AM"		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)			Corner Gas	(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (N) (CC)		Less-Kind	Surviving Sub.	(:02) Man Tracker		The List
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill "Letting Go"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Engagement	CSI: Miami "Chip/Tuck" (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Heroes "1961" (N) (CC)		Medium "Then... and Again"		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Dollars-Sense	House	Maxed Out
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (Same-day Tape)			Surviving Sub.	(:02) Castle (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Mona Lisa Smile ★★ (2003) Julia Roberts, Kirsten Dunst.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (N) (CC)		American Experience (N) (CC) (DVS)			Frontier Vision	Huchoosedah
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Saviors" (N) (CC)		24 "Day 7: 1:00AM - 2:00AM"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	American Exp.	Appalachia: History		Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Paid Program	Family Court	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	NBA Basketball: Clippers at Jazz			Gossip Girl (CC)		One Tree Hill "Letting Go"		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)	
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	Addicted to Plastic (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Addicted to Plastic (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball		Sportsnet	Hockeycentral			Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing Friday Night Fights. (Taped) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures (CC)		Mantracker "Simone & Mike"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:15) WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				(:15) WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				
	417	406	55 SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	This Week in NASCAR		SuperCars	SuperCars	Auctions
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán		Gol TV News	Ole: La Liga		Gol TV News	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Karaoke Star Junior (N) (CC)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	League-Evil	Zixx Level	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN (CC)	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	Punch (CC)	Chicken	American Dad	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Camp Rock (2008) Joe Jonas. Premiere. (CC)			Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Undersea	Landscape	The Museum	The Museum	Jack Bush		Commanding Heights		Haida Art
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star Junior (CC)		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	MuchNews	Video on Trial	MuchVibe (CC)		Shot at Love-Tila	Tequila	MuchNews	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Income Prop.	My First Place	For Rent	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Paranormal	Paranormal State (CC)		Paranormal	Intervention "Mike and Jenny"		Intervention "Tom" (CC)		Paranormal
	628	584	32 SPKE	UFC 70 Nations Collide		UFC 97 Countdown		CSI: NY (CC)		Spike's Most Amazing Videos		Disorderly
	521	560	34 TLC	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Little People	Little People	Table for 12	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Little People
	616	522	35 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		Cashing In	Kink in Hair	Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Name Is Earl	The Office	House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Bolshoi	Broadway	Law & Order "Darwinian"		Without a Trace "Clean Up"		I'll Do Anything ★★ (1994) Nick Nolte. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Project Runway Canada		ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Paradise Hotel
	520	505	42 DIS	The Detonators "Bermuda"		Daily Planet (CC)		Dirty Jobs New York jobs.		The Detonators "Bermuda"		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Hero Ships "USS Enterprise"		The Last Dawn (CC)		NCIS "Bury Your Dead"		Sea Hunters
	627	528	45 SPC	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager "Rise"		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	47 TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Trapped ★★ (2002) (PA) Charlize Theron.		
	619	525	48 TROP	Vanity	Reality	Reality	E News	Ground Up		Are You Smarter		Make
	603	561	52 FN	Hell's Kitchen (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Work for Food	Glutton	Food
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Bob Saget: That Ain't Right		Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	Sanctuary "Revelations"		Tracey Ullman	Tracey Ullman	The Line (N) (CC)		U.S. of Tara	Secret Diary	Sanctuary
	581	566	101 MTV	The Hills (N)	After Show	MTV Live	MTV News	Taking the Stage (CC)		The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Twist of Faith	Bhangra	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Barton Fink ★★★ (1991, Drama) John Turturro, John Goodman, Judy Davis.				
	-	-	105 MUL	Eight Heroes	Mom's-Upset	Can't Live Without Her		Marimar		Pinoy	Pinoy Records	Patrol World

critics'corner

The Big Bang Theory

When a fellow comic book fan starts romancing Penny (Kaley Cuoco), Wolowitz and Leonard (Simon Helberg, Johnny Galecki) decide to check out the brave new world of Ladies' Night at a local bar. Kevin Sussman ("Ugly Betty") guest stars in the new episode "The Hofstadter Isotope"; Jim Parsons and Kunal Nayyar also star. 8 PM on CBS CTV

American Experience

The five-part series "We Shall Remain" spans some 300 years to chronicle key moments in American history from an American Indian perspective. In the opening program, titled "After the Mayflower," after facing five decades of immigration, mistreatment and harrowing epidemics, the Wampanoag and their Indian allies fight back against the English. Benjamin Bratt narrates. 6, 9 PM on PBS

G'nR album hits Rock Band

MUSIC Axl Rose may have spent 15 years fine-tuning the 14 tracks on Chinese Democracy, but it took only five months for the album to make its way into the Rock Band video-game franchise.

Chinese Democracy will be released in its entirety on the Rock Band Music Store April 14, Harmonix and MTV Games announced Friday.

Fawcett released from hospital

CELEBRITY Cancer stricken actress Farrah Fawcett was released from the hospital Thursday, following treatment for bleeding resulting from a medical procedure in Germany, celebrity magazine People reported. Fawcett, 62, is suffering suffers from anal cancer.

REUTERS

Kenya's**Style**

Kenya Hunt

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For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

MUCH
THE MUCH 69ER
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TONIGHT
TILA TEQUILA (6 & 9PM)
TUESDAY
THE COLLEGEHUMOR SHOW (6 & 9PM)
WEDNESDAY
PARIS HILTON'S BRITISH BEST FRIEND (6 & 9PM)
THURSDAY
DADDY'S GIRLS (6 & 9PM)
FRIDAY
DOGG AFTER DARK (6PM)
MUCHMOVIE: THE MATRIX (9PM)
MUCHMUSIC.COM/69ER

Chris finds his 'One'

Parks and Recreation's Chris Pratt, who got engaged to actress Anna Faris late last year, knew she was The One immediately. "I knew I wanted to marry her pretty soon (after I met her.)" he told People magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Woody, airport zombie hunter?

PEOPLE Woody Harrelson had a recent clash with a photographer in New York, but he's got a simple explanation: Harrelson thought he was being attacked by a zombie.

"I wrapped a movie called Zombieland, in which I was constantly under assault by zombies, then flew to New York, still very much in character," the actor said in a statement, according to People magazine.

"With my daughter at the airport, I was startled by a paparazzo, who I quite understandably mistook for a zombie."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Angie rages over Brad's co-star?

PEOPLE Angelina Jolie is jealous of Natalie Portman, female-first.co.uk reports. The actress reportedly flew into a rage after learning Portman had personally asked for Jolie's partner Brad Pitt to play her older lover in a new movie.

"Angelina had a massive fit and was shouting her head off. She accused Brad of flirting with Natalie," the website reports a source as saying. "Angelina can't help but feel threatened. Brad knows how jealous she gets but won't stop saying how gorgeous and intelligent Natalie is. He keeps saying she is 'cute as a button.'"

The website adds that Jolie is particularly worried because she and Pitt started their relationship after meeting on the set of Mr. and Mrs. Smith in 2005 while he was still married to Jennifer Aniston, and she fears a case of history repeating itself.

The source added: "Angelina worries about karma. It's eating her up."

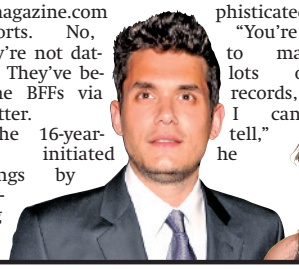
METRO NEWS SERVICES

John and Demi, Twitter BFFs

TWITTER John Mayer has moved on to a different girl: Demi Lovato, usmagazine.com reports. No, they're not dating: They've become BFFs via Twitter.

The 16-year-old initiated things by saying "hi." Mayer, 31, replied last week by telling her that her tune La La Land is "sophisticated."

"You're going to make lots of records, I can tell," he wrote. "Write one song at a time, never apologize for any of them, ever. From Wonderland to Trio stuff, they're all my kids."



Amazed, she replied, "Holy crap. Thank you. You're so awesome. That is quite possibly the best compliment I've received in this business. ... If that's not inspiration, then I don't know what is! You're incredible."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay in breakup downward spiral?

RELATIONSHIPS With her relationship with Samantha Ronson over and her personal life in freefall, Lindsay Lohan needs all the friends she can get. Unfortunately, they're all talking to the press instead.

"Lindsay needs to get psychiatric help. Her friends are really sad for her, but she's out of control, and now she's all alone," a source tells bangshowbiz.com.

Lohan, meanwhile, celebrated the Easter holiday by hurling eggs at photographers that wouldn't leave her alone outside her Hollywood Hills home, according to Contact Music.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Oprah tangled in scam?

INVESTIGATION Oprah Winfrey has called in the Federal Bureau of Investigation to look into a $1-million US scam allegedly sponsored by her talk show, female-first.co.uk reports.

Winfrey's camp was alerted to the issue by fans complaining about an email they had received, claiming they had been selected to compete in an Oprah Millionaire Contest Show.

Con artists prompted recipients to fill out a questionnaire and send money for travel arrangements and tickets to the show.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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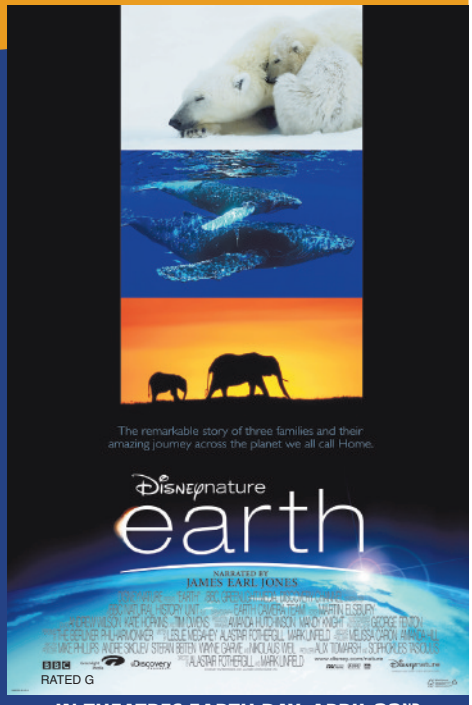
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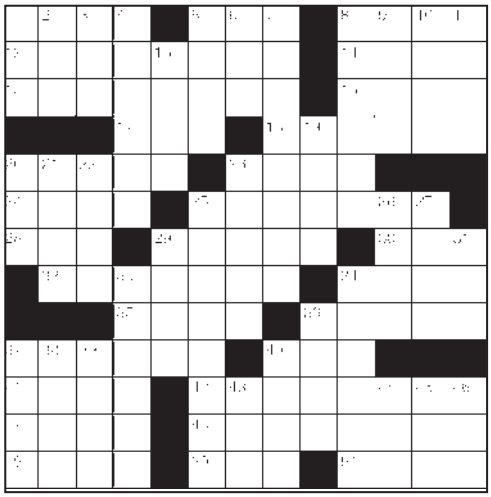
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9	4	6		3	5	8	
1	2						3	6
		7	5		9	6		
	6			4			2	
		1	2		8	7		
8	5						7	1
	1	2	8		4	3	6	

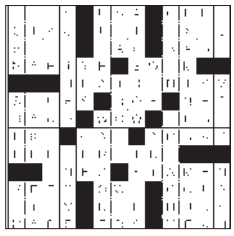
Crossword across

1 Hawaiian island
5 Bro or sis
8 Eatery
12 Baldness
14 Operatic solo
15 Emergency care
16 Dissolve
17 Smithfield product
18 Shimmers
20 Burnett or Channing
23 Cherished
24 One
25 Ariel is one
28 Dowel
29 Star
30 Police officer
32 Ambushed
34 Kathie Lee's "Today" co-host
35 Congers
36 Church council
37 Marital felony
40 Cry loudly
41 Hebrew month
42 "The Fly" tagline, in part
47 Booth payment
48 Without equitability
49 Dispatch
50 "Gosh!"
51 Take out of the text

Crossword down

1 Lummox
2 Boxing legend
3 Perp. to vert.
4 Result
5 Con game
6 XV divided by V
7 Harassed
8 Photog's need
9 Neighborhood
10 Photog's need
11 Chows down
13 List-ending abbr.
19 Gentle as a —
20 Half pint
21 From the beginning
22 Latvia's capital
23 Sandwich shops
25 Fruit tree pest
26 PC picture
27 Extinct bird
29 Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
31 Cushion
33 Annual
34 Cross
36 Couch
37 Crazy
38 "American —"
39 Big bash
40 Secure
43 Compass dir.
44 Exist
45 Under the weather
46 Coloring agent

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	6	1	9	3	4	7	5	2
9	2	4	5	8	7	1	3	6
5	3	7	1	6	2	4	9	8
6	1	5	4	7	3	2	8	9
7	4	3	2	9	8	6	1	5
2	8	9	6	5	1	3	7	4
1	9	8	7	4	6	5	2	3
4	5	2	3	1	9	8	6	7
3	7	6	8	2	5	9	4	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

One-Crust Chicken Pot Pies

INGREDIENTS:
1 1/2 lbs (750 g) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
1 refrigerated piecrust
1 egg white, lightly beaten with 1 tsp (5 ml) water
2 medium carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
1 cup (250 ml) frozen corn kernels
1 cup (250 ml) frozen green peas
1 cup (250 ml) frozen small white onions
1 cup (250 ml) table cream
6 tbsp (90 ml) all-purpose flour
1 tbsp (15 ml) margarine
1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper

METHOD:
1. Bring chicken breasts, 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt, and enough water to cover to a simmer in large pot over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to low; gently poach chicken until juices run clear, 15 minutes. Transfer chicken to cutting board; cool and cut into bite-size pieces. Reserve 2 cups (500 ml) poaching liquid.
2. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Lightly coat baking sheet and six 1-cup (250-ml) ovenproof dishes with non-stick cooking spray.
3. Dust work surface with flour. Unfold pie crust on surface and roll out. Cut 6 squares to fit on top of pies.
4. Make 6 decorations and attach 1 cutout to each pastry square with egg white. Brush tops of decorated pastries with egg white. Transfer to baking sheet and bake until golden brown, 12 minutes. Transfer to wire rack to cool.
5. Meanwhile, cook carrots in boiling water until tender, 5 minutes; drain. Rinse frozen vegetables with hot water; drain. Whisk cream and flour in small bowl. Melt margarine in medium pot over medium heat. Whisk in cream mixture, then reserved poaching liquid. Cook until sauce thickens and boils, 5 minutes. Stir in chicken, carrots, corn, peas, onions, black pepper and remaining salt. Cook until heated through, about 3 minutes; divide among dishes and bake until bubbling, 15 minutes. Top with pastry squares.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
People seem to be suffocating others with fear. A nice guy is too exhausted to call. Therapy becomes necessary for a teen's problem.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A situation changes when someone refuses. A worker misses the point when you explain the rules. Don't give in to senseless demands.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
An embarrassing question is too stupid to ask. Persuade other people that miracles will occur. You won't be held back by anything.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You'll have a great chance to be clear-sighted. A discussion is balanced by distant people. Education choices will reverberate for years.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
A cut-throat businessman has a profitable day. Something you saw affects your mood all day. You'll get support during a draining time.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Feign enthusiasm until you really feel it. A brave approach to bullying won't work. Much attention is focused on a conflict.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Useless reminders won't bear fruit. Someone's efforts to help out are met with distrust. You'll fix a problem that occurred many miles away.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
A dictator isn't ready to give up. A quick talker expands your career potential. False accusations get under your skin.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
A refusal to help out is punished. A professional brings good luck with legal affairs. Don't be afraid to try something new.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Pick up the pieces of a broken promise. Unexpected visitors are coming. Expect good luck with a frivolous romantic.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You'll have some free time. Changes will make you gasp with joy. A remarkable friend influences a lonely walker.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Typical oddball behaviour is forbidden. Don't ruin your reputation by being hypocritical. Someone demands to know that you're concerned.

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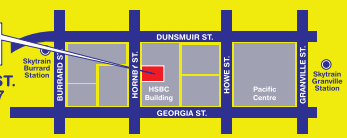

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HERE'S WHAT THE **CAMPBELL GOVERNMENT** DIDN'T WANT YOU TO KNOW ABOUT OUR KIDS' SCHOOLS:

- **177** schools closed
- **10,000** overcrowded classes
- special needs **neglected**

There will be **more cuts** to public education next year because this government's budget failed to make public education a priority.

When will they learn?

MAY 12 • PLEASE VOTE

A message from BC's teachers **bctf.ca**

BC Teachers' Federation, registered sponsor under the Election Act, Irene Lanzinger, President, 604-871-2283.